

Code of Spiritual and Ethical Practices for Students in Grades 3-8

Dear Parents,

As the pastor of Saint Mary's Parish it is my duty to oversee the activities at Saint Mary's School. Our school is a Catholic school that emphasizes the two Great Commandments of Jesus – i.e., to love God with all our heart, strength, mind and soul – and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Parents are necessary partners in this endeavor. Therefore, this letter is a reminder as well as a request that you pledge your cooperation to ensure that your child(ren) are living the Gospel life in ways that are appropriate for their age and maturity level. For example, if we are mature enough to receive Holy Communion, the Church then expects us to fulfill the obligation to keep holy the Lord's Day which, for Catholics, includes the Sunday Mass obligation.

I presume that in your family home you foster an environment that is supportive of Gospel values. Most of the parents of children who attend Saint Mary's School are Catholic – and those parents who are not Catholic realize that by choosing Saint Mary's School your child(ren) will be expected to participate in the Catholic curriculum provided here.

Parents, I write this letter realizing that in the past some have signed the *Spirituality Code* but have not followed through with it. Therefore, I am asking that you give serious consideration to the requirements of the Code and if you sign it, that you pledge to do your part in upholding it. After you have read the requirements and IF you are willing to accept them, please sign the document and return it to Mrs. Lang, the school secretary.

With regard to my child:

1. I know and understand the importance of the Ten Commandments. I also understand that the Third Commandment requires us to keep holy the Lord's Day. Therefore, I pledge to make sure that my child attends Mass **every** Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
(Parents whose children are not Catholic are asked to make this commitment for your child with regard to the church you attend.)
2. I will do my part to encourage kindness and respect in my child. I will remind my child that all forms of bullying are wrong. Therefore, I will instruct my child to live in a way that respects others and avoids hurting others physically or verbally.
3. I will monitor my child's use of the internet as well as his/her choices of music and literature so that my child stays away from things that do not reflect the Christian culture or the values of Saint Mary's School.

Parent signature: _____
Date: _____